Plants to Grow Confidence

If you want to learn how to garden, plants are the best teachers, and the best way to start is to just go ahead and plant. Choose your space carefully, you will want to plant it where you will visit often and where you will enjoy working. Observation throughout the year is a good way to really understand plants and what they need.

Start small and buy enough plants to get the ground covered so weeds don’t overwhelm you. Space your plants so that when they are mature they will be touching, or even overlapping a little, and covering the ground. In the meantime, use mulch to slow down weeds and keep the soil from drying out too quickly.

Your first garden doesn’t need to be perfect, it needs to bloom, bring you joy and grow your confidence as a gardener. Don’t worry about planting a picture perfect native garden, a brilliantly designed landscape or a knockout display of the newest and coolest plants on the market. Those can come later. Your first garden or two will be experiments while you learn how to select and care for different types of plants.

Here are some plants that we at the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum think are a good place to start. We chose these plants because we’re confident that they’ll make you confident. They’ll be easy-to-establish, handle a little bit of neglect and generally be dependable through Nebraska’s unpredictable winters and summers. They’ll also create a great base for you to build on and add to as you get more experienced and experiment further.

**PERENNIALS sun**
- Allium
- Aster
- Beebalm, Monarda
- Coneflower, Echinacea
- Coreopsis
- Rudbeckia

**PERENNIALS part sun**
- Daylily, Hemerocallis
- Golden Alexander, Zizia

**PERENNIALS shade**
- Hosta
- Oenothera
- Omphalodes

**GRASSES**
- Grama, Bouteloua

**Sedges**
- Carex

**Switchgrass**
- Panicum

Sarah Buckley, Nebraska Statewide Arboretum

**INSIDE**
- Plant Talk Schedule 2
- Garden Vendors 2
- Beneficial Landscapes 3
- Sale Day Reminders 4

**PLANT LISTS**

**Full Sun**
- Arabis
- Allium
- Aster
- Beebalm, Monarda
- Coreopsis

**Part Sun**
- Daylily, Hemerocallis
- Golden Alexander, Zizia
- Oenothera
- Omphalodes

**Shade, Grasses, Herbs...**
- Hosta
- Oenothera
- Omphalodes

**Non-hardy, Succulents**
- Sedum

**Trees & Shrubs**
- Salvia

**Priorities for Varying Budgets**
- Salvia

**Tips for Container Planting**
- Rudbeckia

**What We Want for Our Yards**
- Rudbeckia

**Purposeful Plants**
- Salvia

**Calendar & Resources**
- Switchgrass, Panicum

Sarah Buckley, Nebraska Statewide Arboretum

Nebraska Statewide Arboretum is a nonprofit that works toward sustainable home and community landscapes through initiatives in education, public gardens and the environment.

**Nebraska Statewide Arboretum**
Spring Affair
The Midwest’s Largest Plant Sale and Garden Event, 700+ Plant Varieties

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Gardeners, take note:

April 26 from 6-9pm
Purchase Preview Party tickets in advance for meal, live music and preview plant sale

April 27 from 9-2pm
FREE Admission Plant Sale

Lancaster Event Center
4100 N. 84th Street in Lincoln
All under one roof with plenty of free parking

plantnebraska.org

Join us for a night of fun, friends and first choice of plants.
Hors d’oeuvres, live music from the acoustic group Osage and cash bar 6-8 p.m.

- Tickets @ $41 each for non-members (join now and purchase tickets at the member price below)
- Tickets @ $32 each for Arboretum Members
- One year membership @ $55 in the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum

Make checks payable to NSA and send with this form to:
Nebraska Statewide Arboretum
Spring Affair Preview Party
P. O. Box 830964
Lincoln, Nebraska 68503-0964
Plant Talk Schedule

These half hour presentations will be followed by a "walk-about" through the plant sale to highlight recommended plants:

10:10-10:30 “The Suburban Landscape Re-imagined” by Mark Camney, Landscape Designer & Urban Planner

11:10-11:30 “From Avenia to Viburnum, the 10 Best Shrubs for the Home Landscape” by Justin Everett, Green Infrastructure Coordinator for Nebraska Statewide Arboretum

Any prices slightly higher, due to limited availability or higher production costs, will be clearly marked.

Follow Nebraska Statewide Arboretum on Instagram nebraskanstatearboretum

Facebook www.facebook.com/NeArb

Plant Prices

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Size</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3” pot</td>
<td>$3.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4” pot</td>
<td>$6.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6” pot</td>
<td>$10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Round gallon pot $12

Visit the Home Landscape” by Justin Evertson, Green Infrastructure Coordinator for Nebraska Statewide Arboretum

NEBRASKA STATEWIDE ARBORETUM

A non-profit with 30+ years of service providing landscape information, new plants, publications and inspiration to gardeners all across the Great Plains. It has helped make homes and communities more attractive, healthy and vital places to live, work and visit. NSA depends on memberships and donations to carry out its efforts. Support us for lots of great plant and landscape resources.

www.plantnebraska.org

THE TOMATO TOWER

This unique product will change the looks and performance of your garden. It is the only adjustable plant cage on the market. You can virtually grow about 85% of the garden on The Tomato Tower. It will grow a 6’ tomato plant with ease and no tipping over. Also a great space saver for squash, cucumbers, pole beans, peas, pie pumpkins, zucchini and any vining plant. It is great in small spaces...everything is grown vertically. Which means more produce in a smaller space. It has been proven to do well in greenhouses and can increase yield by 3 times as much. Great in containers for patio gardens. Made of heavy gauge steel for lasting performance. For the best tomato cage on the market, tomatoTower.com, 402-920-0424

TWIN LAKES PRODUCE

If you’re looking for vegetable starts and herbs for your home garden check out Twin Lakes Produce. We offer over 50 different varieties of a premium product at a bargain price, STARTING at $1 per plant. CSA packages also available for the growing season. Follow us on Facebook, Twin Lakes Farm and Instagram, twinlakesproduce for specials and discounts. 402-540-5830

WADDELL & REED FINANCIAL ADVISORS

Founded in 1937, Waddell & Reed is one of the most enduring financial services firms in the U.S. We take your journey seriously and we’ll be there every step of the way. While your financial objectives may be similar to those of others—a secure retirement, saving for college education, building wealth—the approach should be decidedly personal. Understanding your unique financial needs is where financial advisors with Waddell & Reed come in.

Licensing: By building personalized plans supported with competitive investment products and dedicated service, we enable you to not only identify goals, but take consistent action to work toward them. Advising: Our mission, every day, is to help clients at all stages and through the changes that life may bring. Member SIPC 03/18

Garden Vendors

(Pavilion 1 at the Lancaster Event Center—in the same building as the plant sale)

AESTHETICS, INC.

Aesthetics, Inc. is a landscaping service business dedicated to helping others create a beautiful environment, naturally. They will also have garden art and houseplants for sale at Spring Affair. aesthetics-inc-denton.com

ARBORETUM TREES & SHRUBS

Lots of trees and shrubs, many native or local seed source, can be found at our tables at the east end of Pavilion I. We specialize in mostly native plants for both dry or wet areas—plants useful for more sustainable landscaping practices. Our trees are grown in smaller size containers, but over time typically catch up with and outperform large landscape-size trees. See page 8 for plant lists and sale dates for locally grown wildflowers, grasses, sedges, trees and shrubs ideal for plant collectors or new gardeners wanting easy-to-grow dependability. plantnebraska.org

EYES OF THE WORLD IMPORTS

Lincoln’s premier spot for hand picked, high quality, sterling silver jewelry and unique gifts. Our garden section has grown to include garden metal structures, statues, chimes, pots and fencing. You’ll also find all kinds of beautiful cast-iron home decor items and Lincoln’s freshest and most affordable income. You’ll find us at our new location at 1734 S. 48th Street, 402-438-0005

DEER DEFEAT

Deer Defeat “It Can’t Be Beat” is an all natural deer, rabbit and groundhog repellent that doesn’t wash off in rain. It repels by odor and taste, won’t clog sprayers and dries odorless. Not only is it repellent that doesn’t wash off in rain. It repels by odor and taste, won’t clog sprayers and dries odorless. Not only is Deer Defeat completely safe for humans, animals and the environment, but its active ingredients are also nourishing to plants.

GARDEN GALLERY

The Garden Gallery is a unique boutique filled with unusual annuals, perennials and special events are happening year round in the greenhouses and gallery. At Spring Affair 2019, we will be bringing a variety of uncommon annuals, perennials and fantastic tropicals. Our hanging baskets are amazing. One-of-a-kind art created by local artists will be another highlight at our booth. You can find The Garden Gallery on Facebook and follow the blog: the-garden-gallery.blogspot.com.

JONI’S DANCE-IN-THE-WIND IRIS GARDEN

Don’t let the name fool you as there is much more available besides irises plants. Also offered are daylilies, peonies, tree peonies, hostas and other perennials that will grow well in your Midwest garden. I try to offer the new and unusual. The last couple years, I have imported tree peonies from China to obtain different varieties that you would not usually see in the United States. I grow over 1,000 iris varieties, 500 hosta cultivars, and about 400 different daylilies. My garden is state inspected annually and all plants offered have grown well in my zone 4 garden. I have growing instructions available for anyone who is just getting started. facebook.com/Jonis-Dance-in-the-Wind-Iris-Garden-120237938007251/

LEAFFILTER

LeafFilter is the most revolutionary gutter protection product on the market. Our product features combine to create the most effective debris shedding gutter guard for use on your home. Just like a lid on a box, LeafFilter’s leaf guard paired with your existing gutters creates a sealed system that prevents anything from entering your gutters except for water. LeafFilter gutter guards provide comprehensive protection guaranteed to eliminate gutter cleaning for the lifetime of your home.

LINCOLN IRIS SOCIETY

The Lincoln Iris Society is a group of friendly, enthusiastic people who love and grow irises. They share iris knowledge and are friendly, enthusiastic people who love and grow irises. They share iris knowledge and are

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR GARDEN VENDORS

- We are responsible for our own tables and plants
- We are responsible for removing our own plants
- Our plants must be clearly marked with prices
-ideals, but take consistent action to work toward them. Advising: Our mission, every day, is to help clients at all stages and through the changes that life may bring. Member SIPC 03/18

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Beneficial Landscapes—more than just beautiful

Beneficial landscapes have a wide range of positive environmental and human impacts. The EPA says, “Beneficial landscaping, sometimes referred to as natural or native landscaping though it is more than that, contains a number of principles that revolve around balancing our needs and sense of beauty with those of nature (our ecosystems) because, in the long run, they are interrelated.” Beneficial landscapes are intentionally created to protect existing natural areas, conserve resources such as energy and water, improve water quality and soil health and increase biodiversity.

In general, our landscapes are far from beneficial. How can we move toward that? Few of us have thousands of dollars to throw at a landscape... and many of us are on a ramen noodle budget. How can we make our home landscapes more beneficial little by little— in terms of cost and care? The key is to gradually and carefully put our dollars to work in small but effective ways that add environmental and aesthetic benefits. Over time a beneficial landscape will ultimately save money.

Most homeowners spend more money on their landscapes than they realize. These dollars usually go toward traditional lawns in the form of water, fertilizer, herbicide, pesticide, equipment, gas and lawn care companies. To free up money for a more productive yard... let go of the lawn, at least a little. In creating more beneficial landscapes, design and management are very intertwined. Every homeowner has a different situation in terms of time, money, expectations and knowledge. Take into account what you can manage and what you can do. A little bit of effort can start to make some changes. Keep in mind that a house in a new subdivision is going to have different environmental challenges than a house in an older part of town. And since budget can be a limiting factor for most people, the suggestions on page 9 take that into account even further.

Here are some places to start:

1. Look at changes in maintenance practices first. Things that cost little or no money. Lower-input lawn care, redirecting downspouts, composting, mulching lawn clippings back into the yard, etc. It doesn’t matter what you plant in your landscape if the way you manage it is not beneficial.
2. All the time, every time you create a landscape bed, consider the soil; this is especially important in newer sub-divisions. Always incorporate organic matter, and consider from local landfills is often free or low cost.
3. The most common landscape shrubs are barberry, spirea, yew, juniper, shrub roses and euonymus—shrubs with little value to insects and wildlife. If you have a clean slider it’s easy to plant diversity from the beginning. If you have existing landscape plants, gradually replace them with more effective ones that are valuable to pollinators, low care and effective in the landscape.
4. Add a shale tree to your landscape. They cool our homes and cities, reduce energy use and offer habitat. One oak tree can support over 500 species of moths and butterflies. And remember that low-cost smaller trees quickly catch up and usually establish better root systems.
5. Add a small- or medium-sized native tree. Many natives such as pawpaw, black cherry, redbud and serviceberry have spring flowers, edible fruits and strong fall color. These species typically do well north or east of buildings with shelter from wind.
6. Embrace clover. Before synthetic fertilizer was readily available, clover was added to all lawn seed mixes for its nitrogen-fixing capabilities. Besides adding biodiversity, it’s a favorite of honeybees (to pollinate your fruits, vegetables and flowers) and of parasitized wasps which are harmless to us but enemies of aphids, scales and whiteflies.
7. Add native grasses or perennials. Their extensive root systems help break up compacted soil and decompose to add organic matter. They’re also very hardy.

Christina Hoyt, Nebraska Statewide Arboretum

Nebraska Statewide Arboretum (NSA) has been a Spring Affair sponsor since its beginning more than 30 years ago. The original intent was to offer a wider, more regionally appropriate plant palette. The need is even stronger and more compelling today as we recognize our dependence on pollinators and how dependent they are on us, and as we see weather extremes take their toll on our home and community landscapes across the state. The Arboretum started almost 40 years ago as an effort of a small group of plant enthusiasts to create beneficial landscapes that are good for the environment and for the people who live in it; whether that’s at a local arboretum, a large municipal project or a home landscape. We’re working to get native and underutilized plants into our landscapes that support insects and wildlife and offer essentials like shade and clean water. Our work focuses on plants, but it’s really about giving people the tools they need to improve their home and community landscapes.

Thanks to the wonderful plants supplied by Bluebird Nursery, Inc. in Clarkson—another longstanding Nebraska tradition—Spring Affair is one way we can work toward more beneficial landscapes. There are other ways as well.

NSA’s affiliate site network is unique in the nation. There are more than 100 affiliated arboretums in 55 communities, each reflecting the geographic and ecological diversity of their local community. More than 300 towns have been impacted by our community landscape program: more trees, more shade, more native plants, more wildlife and more beauty. Our programs have been awarded the American Horticultural Society’s “Urban Outreach through workshops, social media, websites and publications.

Nebraska is both local and global, doing outreach programs to get native and underutilized plants into the nursery industry and into private and public landscapes.

Nebraska has 400+ nursery and tree growers and 900+ nursery dealers and landscape contractors.

WHAT TO PLANT?

PlantNebraska

Beautification Award.” We have one of the strongest programs in the nation for transforming community green space.

NSA’s horticultural program works to get native and underutilized plants into the nursery industry and into private and public landscapes.

NSA is a nonprofit that relies on memberships, donations and grants to fund its programs. If you care about the same things, you can:

- Join us at events.
- Buy plants online or at plant sales.
- Volunteer at our greenhouse, at plant sales, in the office or at event booths.
- Become a member; entry memberships start at $55 and the benefits in plant discounts, free attendance at arboretums all across the U.S. and more often cover the cost.
- Donate—from $25 to an estate gift, our donors make a difference.
- Visit us at plantnebraska.org. Plant is a verb that branches into all the other things we recommend: plants native and for the people who live in it, whether that’s at a local arboretum, a large municipal project or a home landscape. The Arboretum started almost 40 years ago as an effort of a small group of plant enthusiasts to create beneficial landscapes that are good for the environment and for the people who live in it; whether that’s at a local arboretum, a large municipal project or a home landscape. We’re working to get native and underutilized plants into our landscapes that support insects and wildlife and offer essentials like shade and clean water. Our work focuses on plants, but it’s really about giving people the tools they need to improve their home and community landscapes. There are other ways as well.

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Find an Nebraska-Certified Nursery Professional (NCN) for your next landscaping project

(Continued on page 11)
Thank you to our Sponsors and Volunteers

We hope you’ll help us thank Bluebird Nursery for the high-quality plants and our sponsors and volunteers for their generous time and support. We couldn’t do it without them.

Barcel Landscape Products, Inc.
Countryside Bank
Ron & Wanda Kelly
Vlcek Gardens
CABG Patch Arboretum
*Sponsorship opportunities are still available at plantnebraska.org

Though there may be a line outside initially, it disappears when the doors open at 9. Inside, as you’re gathering plants, selected plants can be left with plant sitters while you continue shopping.

Checking out

Payment and checkout is at the west end of Pavillion I. Before you get to a CASHIER, a TICKET WRITER needs to record your plants on a checkout sheet. Grouping your own plants by size and price will help speed up the process.

Once you have your checkout sheet, plants are moved to holding tables while you pay. To avoid confusion, plants that have been paid for must be taken to vehicles; volunteers are available to help with carryout. Door attendants will check receipts as you exit Pavilion 1; you’re welcome to re-enter for more shopping.

Sale Day Reminders

Carts, Wagons, Boxes

Bringing your own cart or wagon is helpful; it’s best to label them and not leave them unattended. Grouping plants by size and price will save time at checkout. Bringing your own containers or boxes will save on waste, although box flats will be available.

You can pay for your plants with cash, MasterCard, Visa, Discover, American Express or checks payable to Nebraska Statewide Arboretum (NSA). To get an NSA member discount, member ID is required at checkout.

To report potential emerald ash borer, contact the Nebraska Department of Agriculture at 402-471-2351.

Tree-killing pests, like the emerald ash borer, hitchhike on firewood and spread insects and diseases that destroy our trees. Keep your backyard, campgrounds and favorite places safe from these pests.

PREVENTION IS KEY:

- Buy locally-harvested firewood.
- Ask a park ranger or campground host about where to get local firewood when you travel.
- If you brought firewood in from another area, BURN IT! Don’t leave it, don’t take it with you.

Both Events at:
St. Andrews Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall South Entrance, 1015 Lancaster Lane (4 blocks east of 70th & Vine, then 1 block north on East Avon Lane) in Lincoln.

For more information: See us at our Spring Affair Booth.

Lincoln Iris Society
Iris Show – May 18, 2019 2 - 5 pm
Plant Sale – July 20, 2019 10-4 pm
Newer variety Auction 11 am

To report potential emerald ash borer, contact the Nebraska Department of Agriculture at 402-471-2351.

BUY LOCAL, BURN LOCAL.

To report potential emerald ash borer, contact the Nebraska Department of Agriculture at 402-471-2351.
### Money Matters

#### Choices and Priorities for Varying Budgets, from Dead Broke to $1,000

Shhh... most of us probably spend more money on our landscapes than we want to admit. And while plants are an obvious expense, there are other, more hidden, costs as well. For container plants, the cost of pots, soil, amendments. For the lawn, there’s equipment, gas, fertilizer or herbicide treatments. There’s the cost of digging and pruning tools, wheelbarrows, gloves, tool repair, trellises, hardscaping, bird baths or feeders.

Arboretum staff—and gardeners as a whole—tend to be frugal and innovative do-it-yourselfers, so there’s our pruning tools, wheelbarrows, gloves, tool repair, trellises, hardscaping, bird baths or feeders.

A great deal of陆地花园 staff, and gardeners as a whole, tend to be frugal and innovative do-it-yourselfers, so there’s an obvious expense, there are other, more hidden, costs as well. For container plants, the cost of pots, soil, amendments. For the lawn, there’s equipment, gas, fertilizer or herbicide treatments. There’s the cost of digging and pruning tools, wheelbarrows, gloves, tool repair, trellises, hardscaping, bird baths or feeders.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Budget</th>
<th>$100</th>
<th>$500</th>
<th>$1,000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bob Henrickson</td>
<td>I’d build up the soil and make landscape beds or enhance vegetable garden fertility.</td>
<td>I would purchase vegetable garden seeds and always a few herb plants for the season. Some of this budget will go to colorful container and bedding plants to brighten up the back patio area and steps that lead to the upper garden.</td>
<td>I’d install a new perennial garden or add to an existing space and add more shrubs to my landscape to replace some tired lilacs that are growing in too much shade. I would spend some money on tree seedlings that would eventually grow to larger specimens.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Executive Director of Horticulture Programs</td>
<td>I would add compost, which is often free from the city, to existing landscape beds and purchase some high-impact shrubs—ones with great habitat value. Or I would buy small size perennials for a new bed.</td>
<td>I would spend some money on a small grow-bag shade tree. I’d also buy more shrubs and maybe a small-growing native tree, like serviceberry or pawpaw.</td>
<td>I would install a rain garden. It’s a great way to catch rainwater; they’re beautiful and insects love the native grasses and perennials in them. Some large municipalities have cost-share programs for homeowners (free money).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christina Hoyt</td>
<td>I’d look at simple maintenance changes like managing my grass differently and re-directing my downspouts. I’d also mooch off my neighbors for plant material!</td>
<td>Holy cow, we could really change the landscape with this. For under $500, I built a shade frame, compost bin and working area where I’ve started tons of new plants.</td>
<td>I’d do all of the previous ideas and replace a third of my lawn with beneficial plants for insects and birds. With the $500 left over, I’d go to the Smoky Mountains and hug some of the ancient trees there.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Executive Director</td>
<td>It’s not what you do but what you don’t do. Relax on mowing, let mother nature take its course. If I could get free mulch, I’d mulch around my trees and shrubs. Beg plants from other people. Plant an acorn. I have eight shade trees in my yard from acorns.</td>
<td>Buy a wheelbarrow and shovel for heavy chores.</td>
<td>I’d stock up on tools and supplies like garden gloves, a transplant shovel and a hose.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Justin Evertson</td>
<td>I want to do in my yard, and draw inspiration from places I admire in real life and magazines.</td>
<td>I’d plant a vegetable garden. The supplies to create one are cheap, it will feed my family and I can put the compost to use.</td>
<td>I’d buy a few nut and fruit trees to plant. Pecans, persimmons, serviceberries and the like take a few years to produce, so I’d be itching to get them in the ground as soon as I had the money. These would also serve as the visual framework of my garden; another reason to get them going.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green Infrastructure Coordinator</td>
<td>I’d start a compost pile. You can build a bin with basic home-owner tools and salvaged materials.</td>
<td>Buy a reel lawn mower, which runs from $100-$500. I would also buy a few fruit trees.</td>
<td>I’d take care not to bite off more than I can weed, so to speak. I would choose a modest area (100-200 square feet) under my young trees for a lush understory garden, and put the cash into a density of at least one plant per square foot. This would do a lot to keep weeds at bay.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kendall Weyers</td>
<td>I would make a plan! It only takes paper and some markers to get the imagination going on a stellar landscape vision. I’d ask myself about my goals and what I want to do in my yard, and draw inspiration from places I admire in magazines.</td>
<td>I’d stock up on tools and supplies like garden gloves, a transplant shovel and a hose.</td>
<td>I’d take care not to bite off more than I can weed, so to speak. I would choose a modest area (100-200 square feet) under my young trees for a lush understory garden, and put the cash into a density of at least one plant per square foot. This would do a lot to keep weeds at bay.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sustainable Communities Coordinator</td>
<td>I’d build up the soil and make landscape beds or enhance vegetable garden fertility. I would get free compost from the city if available, leaves from my own yard, perhaps grass clippings and ask around to gather some old horse manure and straw that I could add.</td>
<td>I would purchase vegetable garden seeds and always a few herb plants for the season. Some of this budget will go to colorful container and bedding plants to brighten up the back patio area and steps that lead to the upper garden.</td>
<td>I’d install a new perennial garden or add to an existing space and add more shrubs to my landscape to replace some tired lilacs that are growing in too much shade. I would spend some money on tree seedlings that would eventually grow to larger specimens.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rachel Anderson</td>
<td>I’d install a rain garden. It’s a great way to catch rainwater; they’re beautiful and insects love the native grasses and perennials in them. Some large municipalities have cost-share programs for homeowners (free money).</td>
<td>I’d do all of the previous ideas and replace a third of my lawn with beneficial plants for insects and birds. With the $500 left over, I’d go to the Smoky Mountains and hug some of the ancient trees there.</td>
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Pot ‘em up! Tips for Container Planting

For focal points and outdoor living areas, container plantings are hard to beat. They bring plants to eye level for maximum visual impact, ease of care and movement from one area to another. But potted plants have their own challenges. They require excellent drainage, steady fertilization throughout the growing season and careful plant selection to keep them looking good for as long as possible. Here’s a few tips to keep them at their best:

- Normal garden soil doesn’t drain well enough for containers. Whether you’re using a prepared potting mix or creating your own, adding mineral aggregate like vermiculite or perlite will help loosen and aerate the soil; and adding organic matter in the form of compost, peat or sphagnum moss will add nutrients.
- The Backyard Farmer Garden’s Carol Morgenson says, “Resist the temptation to use the same media a second year, as soil mixes decompose quickly and plants are likely to struggle if they’re used a second year.” Don’t waste it, though, because the old media is a great addition for garden beds.
- Adding composted bark will help with both drainage and weight. Morgenson fills the bottoms of very large pots about a third of the way up with composted bark to reduce cost and then fills them up with planting mix.
- Mixing a slow release general fertilizer into the top 8 inches or so at planting time helps plants get going and improves long-term plant health.
- Plant roots should have about a half inch of soil covering them and soil should go almost to the top of the container to compensate for settling. Morgenson says “High planting tenacles better air flow and likewise plant health, plants have more impact high in the pot and it allows more room for roots. Once the soil and plants are in, don’t pack the soil down, just let it settle naturally from watering.”

What We Want for Our Yards

Whether we consciously think about it or not, we all want specific things from and for our yards, probably far more than we realize. Goals vary from one person to another, one season to another. We want our yards to be attractive, easy to manage; attract birds, butterflies or other wildlife; and offer an appealing outdoor living space. Some of us care most about the front yard—how it looks from the street, while others want functionality, recreation, quiet or privacy.

As part of the larger physical environment, we certainly want our yards to “do no harm,” and hopefully benefit ourselves, wildlife, neighbors and the larger eco-system. Within those constraints, though, there are a lot of ways to make our yards more appealing and usable. Here’s a few things to consider:

- Are there places you want more shade? More sunlight? More privacy? If so, think about the best places to plant trees or shrubs.
- Are there views out windows that are particularly important where sun, shade or a focal point extend visually to the outdoors?
- If you have kids, are there specific things that would encourage outdoor play? Shade, structures, pathways, sand pits.
- Are there unused or not highly visible areas that could be kept rough for composting or for kids to dig, move soil or sand, plant or build simple structures?

sun or shade, wet or dry, etc. From there you can group as desired for height, growth habit, texture and color.
- Containers dry out faster than ground beds. Some may need to be watered several times a day in hot, windy weather.
- Select a container large enough to hold the plants once they’re mature. Larger pots won’t dry out as fast and ones with a wider base will be more stable during strong winds.
- Squirrels can be discouraged from uprooting plants by placing rocks or pine cones on any bare soil between plants; they’ll also help mediate soil moisture and temperature.

Favorite Container Plants

Some people aim at “spiller, thriller, filler” combinations but whatever makes you happy might be just as good a guide-line for these focal points that brighten the spots where we sit, eat or walk. If you like to cook with herbs, you might focus on edibles. If you want to watch butterflies or increase vegetable production, choose pollinator favorites. If you’re eager for green early in spring or fall or into the fall, think panies, evergreens or late bloomers.

Assistant Extension Educator Terri James likes including grasses in container, “By adding grasses you’re well on your way to a great fall combination.” Her favorites include the grass-like weeping brown sedge, Carex flagellifera ‘Toffee Twist’, and grasses like Mexican feather grass, Nassella tenuissima, and wind-dancer lovegrass, Eragrostis liliacea ‘Wind Dancer’. Some of Morgenson’s favorites are Duranta erecta ‘Golden Edge’ for its “glossy gold and green foliage that provides color and contrast throughout the growing season. It can get pretty tall if it’s happy, and can produce thorns once it gets some size, but it’s a lovely contrast color.” Other favorites include Iresine herbstii ‘Brilliantissima’ for burgundy and pink foliage in part shade; and Begonia ‘Dragon Wing Red’ and ‘Dragon Wing Pink’ which she sees as “spectacular and dependable performers,” either alone or in combination with other plants.

Scott Evans, Horticulture Program Coordinator for Nebraska Extension in Douglas-Sarpy Counties, loves lotus vine, Lotus berthelotii. He says, “At first glance it can be confused with other fillers like with morning glories, but it has blue/green color and the beautiful way it trails sets it apart.” Evans also loves using ornamental oregano in pots, “It’s another splitter that doesn’t overpower the container and flowers freely in full sun.”

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Karma Larsen, Nebraska Statewide Arboretum
Plants for Dry Shade

One of the challenges of gardening can be dealing with shade, particularly dry shade under the canopy of trees where rainwater is deflected away and plants need to compete for moisture, root space, nutrients, even airflow. Narrow spaces between buildings or under north-facing eaves offer the same challenge.

Below is a list of plants that can thrive in shade or part shade in areas with minimal moisture. But keep in mind that, like any plant, they need to be well-watered the first several years until their roots are well-established.

Ajuga
Alchemilla, Lady’s mantle
Aquilegia, Columbine
Bergenia
Brunnera
Clematis, 7’
Convallaria
Corydalis, (opposite)
Dicentra, Bleeding heap
Digitalis, Foxglove
Geranium (perennial)
Helleborus, Lenton rose
Hemerocallis, Daylily
Heucher, Coral bells
Hosta
Lamium
Liriope
Lonicera, 8’
Monarda, 3-4’
Persicaria
Polygonatum
Pachysandra, 3-4’, 8’

Tall Plants for the Back Border

Plants can vary greatly in height due to site, soil, exposure, and other factors, but the plants listed below are likely to grow higher than 3 feet. They can be found in the sections listed at the top

GRASSES
Andropogon, 3’
Calamagrostis, 3-5’
Eragrostis trichodes, 3’
Miscanthus, 3-4’
Panicum, 4-5’
Stipa capillata, 2-4’
Sorghastrum nutans, 3-4’

HERBS
Cordariun sativum, 3’
Rosmarinus, 2-3’
Salvia elegans, 3-4’
Stevia rebaudiana, 3’

PERENNIALS, full sun
Anchusa, 3-4’
Achillea, 3-4’
Alcea rosea, 3-6’
Amorpha canescens, 4’
Astilbe, 2-3’
Asperula, 2-3’
Baptisia lutea, 3-4’
Buddleja, 3-7’
Centranthus ruber, 2-3’

Name Your Challenge

* Asterisk denotes woody plants that may be available from the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum (see plant list on page 8).

SPRING
*Acer, maple
Allium, onion
*Acantholirch, serviceberry or Juneberry
Anemone
Antennaria, pussytoes
Aquilegia, columbine

Plants for Pollinators (all year long)

Oenothera, evening primrose
Pyranthemum, mountain mint
Rosa, rose
Rubus humilis, wild petunia
Silphium lacinatum, compass plant
Veronicastrum, calver’s root

LATE SUMMER
Achillea, yarrow
Agastache
Allium, onion
Artemisia, sage
Asclepias, milkweed
Calamintha, calamint
Ceanothus, New Jersey tea
e
Chelone, turtlehead
Coreopsis
Dalea, prairie coneflower
Desmodium canadense, bumbleflower
Echinacea, coneflower
Eryngium, sea holly
Eupatorium, Joe pye plant
Guillardia
Helenium, false sunflower
Leptocaulis, bush clover
Liatris, blazing star
Monarda, bee balm
Oenothera, evening primrose
Physostegia, obedient plant
Pyranthemum, mountain mint
Ratibida, prairie coneflower
Rudbeckia, black-eyed Susan
Schizachyrium, little bluestem
Silphium, cup plant
Solidago, goldenrod
Sororobulus, prairie dropseed
Thelesperma, greenheads
Vernonia, ironweed

AUTUMN
Agastache
Artemisia
Atropa
Calamintha, calamint
Chelone, turtlehead
Cirsium, thistle
Eupatorium, Joe pye plant
Gauna
Helenium, sneezeweed
Helianthus, sunflower
Liatris, blazing star
Monarda
Rudbeckia, black-eyed Susan
Salvia
Sedum
Senna
Solidago, goldenrod
Solidaster, False aster
Symphyotrichum, aster
Verbena
Viburnum

BUDDLEIA

Plans grow and change, just like you

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Spring Events

Spring Affair
FREE 1st Thursday Brownbags in Lincoln
April 4-8, June 6—Lincoln Event Center, 3501 W. 44th St.
April 13—Tree Climb at Omaha’s Elmwood Park
April 26-27—SPRING AFFAIR, Lancaster Event Center

SALES at NSA Shadehouse, 38th & Leighton, unless noted
May 4—Plant Sale 9-noon at Douglas-Sarpy Extension, 8015 W Center Road in Omaha
May 10—Member Plant Sale & Ice Cream Social 4-7pm
May 17—Spring Plant Sale 9-1pm
May 20—Member Plant Sale & Ice Cream Social 4-7pm
May 31—Member Plant Sale & Ice Cream Social 4-7pm
June 15—Plant Sale 9-noon at Fontenelle Forest, 1111 Bellevue Blvd N in Bellevue
June 21—Friday afternoon sale 12-4:30pm
June 28—Friday afternoon sale 12-4:30pm

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NOTE: Dates may change.
Check calendar updates at plantnebraska.org

Everything a gardener needs—
plantnebraska.org/plants
Lists of native and recommended and native plants, landscape tips, publications, seasonal articles

The Arboretum has compiled a lot of resources over the last 40 years of work. More, in fact, than can be easily gathered in a single website. We’ve tried to make sure the best, most essential and most concise bits of information are available on our website, though, and with the fewest number of clicks. Whether you’re a new gardener or someone who’s been planting for decades, you’ll find something of interest.

Most of the landscape resources for gardeners are under the Plants menu tab. In Plants / Resources you’ll find lists of native and recommended plants, how-to guides, videos and outdoor ideas for preschoolers to seniors. Under Plants / Publications there’s a wealth of publications on prairies, trees, pollinators and much more. Plants / This Month offers seasonal information and Plants / Bloom Box introduces you to information and plants specifically for pollinators.

If you work with larger landscapes, under the Community Landscapes tab you’ll find information about current grant opportunities, developing a public landscape and case studies highlighting school landscapes, waterwise plantings and more.

There’s always a lively conversation going on the Arboretum’s Facebook (or Twitter or Pinterest or Instagram) page. Gardeners are a curious, engaged and lively group and there’s always room for one more person at the table.

If you can’t find what you want online, give us a call or email, come to a free first Thursday brown-bag at the Jane Snyder Trail Center, 228 N 21 Street in Lincoln. Or join us at a plant sale or tour or other event. You’ll always be able to find us… somewhere in the garden.